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**PETITION TO CONSIDER AN
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
SUBMITTED AFTER FINAL ACTION**

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph A Dowell Inc

Ralph A. Dowell
Registration No. 26, 868

Dowell & Dowell P.C.
Suite 309
1215 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia
U.S.A. 22202

4/6/2004

Our Ref.: 1631106.0025
NH/kek

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:)
Yoshihisa Shinagawa et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/781,309)
)
Filed: February 13, 2001)
)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR CODING AND)
DECODING IMAGE DATA)
USING CRITICAL POINTS)

Group Art Unit: 2624
Examiner: Anh Hong Do
Attorney Docket: 13599

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JUL 13 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
USA

Dear Sir/Madam:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in the manner prescribed by 37 CFR 1.97(b) - (d) to satisfy the duty under 37 CFR 1.56 to disclose to the Office information, known to individuals associated with the filing and prosecution of the subject application, which is material to the examination of the application.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g) and (h), this statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after the mailing date of the earlier of either a final action under 37 CFR 1.113 or a notice of allowance under 37 CFR 1.311 but before payment of the issue fee and includes a certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement and the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i). Applicant therefore respectfully requests consideration of this information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(d).

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(e), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Please note that a copy of US Patent No. 6,018,592 has not been provided as this was previously submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 18, 2001.

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), a list of all patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office is hereby provided by way of the attached Form PTO-1449.

In compliance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), also enclosed, where applicable, is a legible copy of:

- i) each foreign patent;
- ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and
- iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered by the Examiner and that the references be made of record and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Respectfully submitted, ---

Ralph A. Dowell/wns

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Date: _____
Encls. _____

4/6/2004